

ONE MYSTERY SOLVED Castle-Builder Identified Now

Those readers who have been on DD's mailing list for some while may recall articles that ran in the May & July issues regarding the Dunham Castle in Kane County, IL & its grande dame, Jane Dunham (b. 1906). When we published these articles we didn't know how Jane fitted into the total Dunham picture. Now we do, thanks to Marilyn Roth, who sent in this sketch from the COMMEMORATIVE BIOGRAPHICAL & HISTORICAL RECORD OF KANE COUNTY (1888), which ties the family in. Jane was the granddaughter of Mark W. Dunham (who called his castle "Oaklawn" originally). Mark was of the 8th generation in America, with ancestry as follows: Deacon John 1, John 2, John 3, Elisha 4, Elisha 5, Elisha 6, Solomon 7.

MARK W. DUNHAM was born June 22, 1842, at Oaklawn, the old Dunham homestead in the town of St. Charles, Kane Co., Ill., where he now resides; he is the youngest son of Solomon Dunham, who removed to Illinois with his family from Cattaraugus County, N. Y., in the spring of 1835.

Solomon Dunham was born at Stillwater, Saratoga Co., N. Y., in 1794; was the son of Elisha Dunham, born in 1751. Elisha Dunham was the son of Elisha Dunham, and was born at Maustfield, Conn., in 1718. Elisha Dunham was born at Barnstable, Mass., in 1687, and was the son of John Dunham III, born at Plymouth in 1647, son of John Dunham II. John Dunham II was the son of Deacon John Dunham, and emigrated from Lincolnshire with the family of his father, in 1633. Deacon John Dunham was born in Lincolnshire, England, in 1589. He was a descendant of an ancient family of that name, that the records show to have been residents of that locality prior to the Norman conquest. He immigrated about 1623 with his wife, Abigail, and sons, John, Benjamin, Daniel, Samuel, Thomas, and daughter, Persis, to Plymouth, Mass., and died March 2, 1699. He was first made representative in 1639, and often afterward. He was a deacon of Plymouth, and among the first purchasers of Dartmouth.

The oldest son of Deacon John Dunham, also named John, reared a family at Plymouth, Mass., consisting of John, born 1647, Jonathan, born 1650, and Samuel, 1652.

The eldest son, John, was a member of Plymouth Church, and settled in Barnstable, and married Mary Smith, daughter of Rev. John Smith, in 1679. She was a cousin of Gov. Thomas Hinckley, and was born November, 1647. In 1696 John Dunham bought a large tract of land in Windham, which afterward became known as Dunham's Pond, and is now called Mansfield Centre. His children were: Jonas, born December, 25, 1680, Ebenezer, born April 17, 1684, Elisha, born September 1, 1687.

Elisha Dunham was married to Temperance Stewart, of Chatham, Mass., and two children were born to them: Ebenezer, May 31, 1717, and Elisha, August 21, 1718, the latter dying April 24, 1751.

Elisha had three sons with whom he removed to Vermont, and finally to Saratoga County, N. Y.

One of his sons, Elijah, lived at Stillwater, Saratoga County, until his death. He took an active part in the Revolutionary War, becoming famous as a frontier leader, receiving the commissions of captain and colonel. He was present at the battle of Saratoga, in which Burgoyne surrendered, part of the battle having been fought on the Dunham estate. He had three sons: Solomon, Elijah and Daniel; and three daughters: Abigail, Maria and Freelove.

Solomon, born in 1794, received such education as was obtainable at that time at his home. His father dying while he was in his teens, he determined to acquire such knowledge as would fit him for engineering. Entirely dependent upon his own resources, he applied himself to the study of mathematics, obtaining the necessary means for his support during that time by rafting lumber from the Upper Hudson to New York during the season. Having gained a thorough knowledge of surveying, he immigrated to Western New York about 1816, settling in Cattaraugus County, near Buffalo, where he married Lydia Ballard, in 1819, and where were born eight of his eleven children: Betsy, Daniel, Harriet, Jane, Delia, Julia, Frank, and Emily; those born in Kane County, Ill., were Helen, Emma and Mark W.

With the capture of Black Hawk, and the final adjustment of the Indian claims by the purchase of their lands, all impediments to the settlement of Northern Illinois and Wisconsin disappeared, and among the first to avail themselves of the advantages that had been so glowingly portrayed, was Solomon Dunham, who undertook the journey with his family overland, arriving at Chicago, then a mere village, in the latter part of April, 1835. Leaving his family at Fort Dearborn, he came to Fox River, and located a claim on the east border of the Little Woods, on Section 13, St. Charles Township, to which the family were immediately removed, arriving on May 8, 1835. As the Government surveys had not been made at that date, the rights of settlers were confined to pre-emption. Claim titles to land were then the only titles to be had in that section, and, as adventurers were continually attempting to "jump claims," and thus defraud bona-fide original claimants out of their land, the only guarantee to a title often depended on the strength and courage of the owner, a condition of things which caused much trouble among the early settlers.

Solomon Dunham possessed great firmness and strength of character, which, combined with an intrepid spirit and good judgment, soon made him a man of mark and a leader among the pioneers. He formed organizations in their midst for the protection of their just claims, and by this means protected many pioneer families from being summarily and wrongfully ousted from their homes. He was a member of the first board of county commissioners, and assisted in the county's organization. As a civil engineer and surveyor his services were constantly in demand, and he became one of the party of engineers who surveyed and laid out the

first railroad built west of Chicago, known as the Chicago & Galena Railroad. In all business dealings he was prompt, and, in the aid of public improvements and whatever other calls were made upon him, he was liberal to the extent of his means. Strictly honest and conscientious in all affairs, Mr. Dunham was radical in following any course of action or thought that he had become satisfied was right. He was a strong believer in and adherent of the principles represented by the Democratic party. His tenacity never wavered, and he for years was a potent factor in the politics of Northern Illinois. Of very decided opinions, fearless and outspoken on all occasions, he naturally made some bitter opponents, whilst the same characteristics of honest fearlessness made many fast and true friends. Although never a member of any sect or denomination, he was possessed of religious convictions, and was a Universalist in belief. Pure in his speech and acts, he discountenanced and reproved both profanity and immorality by theory and practice. One of the most worthy among the pioneers, he died April 2, 1895. His wife, Lydia Ballard Dunham, having died eight years previously.

Carrie M. Dunham, wife of M. W. Dunham, to whom she was married May, 29, 1877, was born the second day of July, 1858, at Maquoketa, Iowa, the eldest daughter of Frederick S. Dunham, who was born December 18, 1831, at Mansfield, Conn. He was the son of Lewis Brigham Dunham, born October 6, 1806, at Mansfield, Conn. Lewis Brigham Dunham was the son of Cephas Dunham. Cephas Dunham was the son of Seth Dunham, Jr., and was born February 12, 1781, at Mansfield,

MARK W. DUNHAM (from p. 1)

Conn. Seth Dunham, Jr., was the son of Seth Dunham, and was born July 4, 1741, in Plymouth.

Seth Dunham, Sr., was the son of Ebenezer Dunham, and was born about 1719, at Plymouth, Mass. Ebenezer Dunham was the son of John Dunham III, and was born at Plymouth, Mass., April 17, 1684. John Dunham III was the son of John Dunham II, who emigrated with his father from Lincolnshire, England. He settled first in Plymouth, married in 1716, and removed to Mansfield in 1721.

The mother of Mrs. Mark W. Dunham was

Phoebe McCoy, daughter of Joseph McCoy and Phoebe Bellows, daughter of Col. Caleb Bellows, of Bellows Falls, Vt., son of Gen. Benjamin Bellows, founder of Walpole, N. H., grandson of John Bellows, who emigrated from London on the ship "Hopewell," in 1685.

M. W. Dunham, the subject proper of this biographical sketch, received his primary education in the schools of his native township, supplemented by a course in the academies of Batavia and Elgin, and at Wheaton College. He early acquired the habit of self-reliance, so necessary to success. From the age of fifteen, his father's large farm was largely under his direction and management, and, upon his father's death, in 1865, the homestead was left by will to him. Here he has continued to live to the present time, making the many vast changes that have taken place in the growth and general improvement of the old home place. The original farm consisted of about 300 acres, with buildings of moderate dimensions. Now "Oaklawn Farm" has, by repeated accessions, extended its borders it consists of 1,200 broad acres, thoroughly of most fertile and highly improved land, crossed at convenient distances by fine graveled roads. The estate is dotted with a number of commodious dwelling houses for the accommodation of employees, while the large barns and well-appointed stables have a capacity for properly and conveniently caring for about 800 horses. In fact it is generally known and recognized as the largest and finest establishment of the kind in the world.

On the opposite side of the road, a few hundred yards distant from the old farm dwelling of Mr. Solomon Dunham, is located the family residence of M. W. Dunham, a large mansion. It is built of white brick with stone trimmings in the Norman-Gothic style of architecture of the French chateau type, and is one of the finest farm residences, if not the finest, in the State of Illinois. The mansion from without presents an imposing appearance, with its Norman battlements and Gothic towers and turrets. It is situated on a gently sloping eminence, having as a background a beautiful natural grove to the north and west. It is surrounded by thirty-five acres of handsomely ornamented grounds, abounding with shrubs and

flowers, and intersected with graceful macadamized roads and walks. The present season will probably see these grounds enlarged to 100 acres, making it one of the largest and finest private parks in the country. The plans for and the arrangement of the apartments in the mansion were made wholly under the direction of Mr. Dunham and his able wife, and with their fittings are models of grace and convenience.

"Oaklawn" is noted for its hospitality, and to every railroad train that stops within a mile of its generous doors has for years been sent an "Oaklawn" team and carriage, to carry guests to and from.

The family consists of three bright and interesting children, named Wirth Stewart Dunham, born March 28, 1878; Bernice Dunham, born February 21, 1880, and Belle Dunham, born August 10, 1881.

The firmness and strength of character inherited from his father, in an intensified degree, united with a phenomenal pertinacity of purpose, well fitted M. W. Dunham for the successful direction of any business; but an especial love for and a natural talent in the judgment of horses has, undoubtedly, contributed largely toward his unprecedented success in his chosen business, and placed him on the top rung of the ladder among the successful breeders of fine stock in this country, and he is certainly more widely known than any other stock breeder in America.

The great improvement brought about in the draft horses of this country during the past twenty years is largely due to M. W. Dunham's untiring energy and good judgment, he having imported from France during that time over two thousand of the best specimens of the Percheron breed to be found in that country, in addition to which he is constantly breeding from his stud of over two hundred imported mares.

His unswerving devotion to his business and unimpeachable integrity, coupled with an established reputation for handling nothing but the best, has earned for him the gratitude of the French as well as the American people; and in the old district of the Perche, in France, the name of Mark Dunham is truly a household word, and his extended acquaintance among the best men of both

France and America, whose confidence he fully enjoys, has given him an influence that few men possess.

The great influence exerted by this man with the French Government on behalf of the breeders of France, for the improvement of the Percheron race, will never be fully known here, and cannot be estimated. It has united the Government officials and the private breeders of that country in harmonious efforts for progress, and established the standard of the Percheron breeding upon a higher plane than that of any other draft race in the world.

Unassuming by nature, with no desire for personal distinction outside of his business, Mr. Dunham has always declined political prominence, although flattering recognition of his ability has repeatedly been tendered by his fellow citizens. He has preferred to seek and earn eminence in his chosen field, and he has certainly established a world-wide reputation as one of the clearest-headed, most energetic and far-seeing of American stock breeders, and won a success which is as marked in its line as are those of Jay Gould or Vanderbilt in railroading, or A. T. Stewart in the mercantile world.

The obituary at right for R. J. Dunham (1881-1948) appeared in THE NEW YORK TIMES Feb. 4, 1948.

R. J. DUNHAM DEAD,
LEADER IN CHICAGO

Former President of the Park District—Once Was Armour Executive and Bank Aide

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES

CHICAGO, Feb. 3.—Robert J. Dunham of Chicago, one-time president of the Chicago Park District, who was formerly vice president of Armour & Co., died yesterday in the Arizona Biltmore Hotel, Phoenix, Ariz., where he and his wife, Mrs. Natalie Moorehead Dunham, had been living since November. He was 71 years old.

Born in Chicago, Mr. Dunham attended Harvard University and in 1897 became secretary of the Dunham Towing and Wrecking Company. Four years later he entered the vessel brokerage and marine insurance business. Subsequently, he became president of the Shipowners Dry Dock Company and treasurer of the Western Cold Storage Company.

Mr. Dunham joined Armour & Co. in 1907, becoming assistant treasurer in 1909 and soon afterward vice president. While with Armour's he became director of several banks, railroads and other enterprises. He resigned from Armour's in 1920.

His first public office came when he was named chairman of the Illinois Emergency Relief Committee in 1933. He held the post until 1935.

When Chicago's twenty-two separate park boards were consolidated in 1934, former Mayor Edward J. Kelly made Mr. Dunham a member of the first board. He became president and was re-elected continuously until May, 1946, when he declined his thirteenth term, pleading advanced years and ill health.

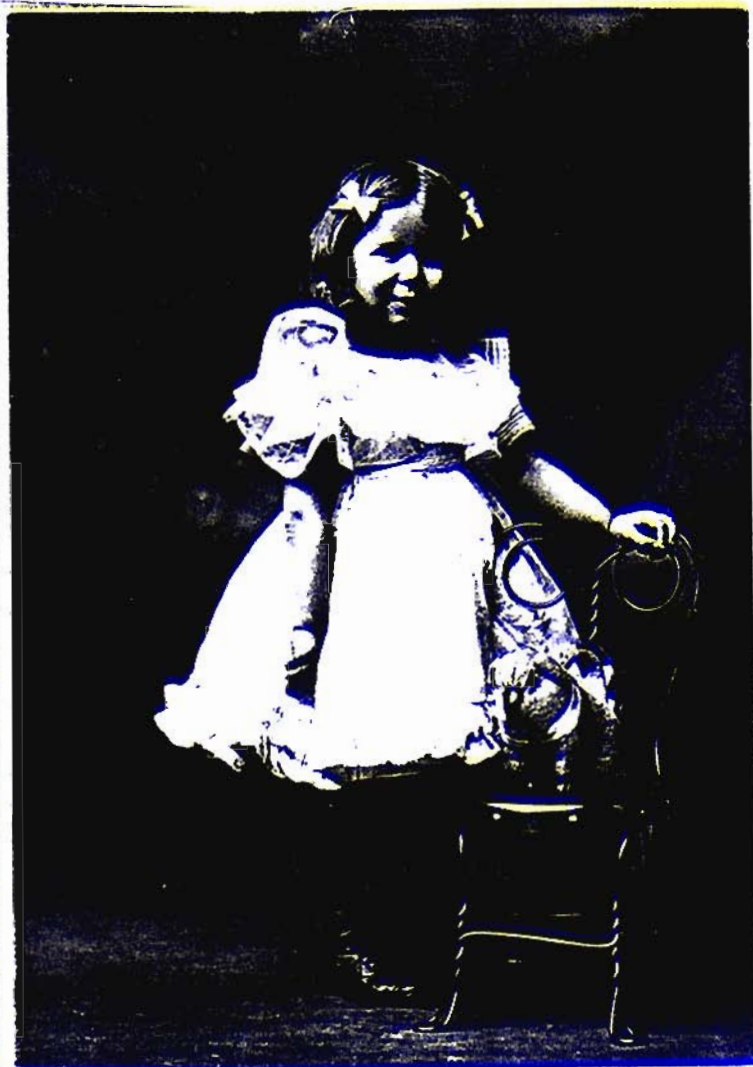
A Republican in early life, Mr. Dunham later became a Democrat. He gave his personal check for \$40,000, guaranteed \$125,000 and raised \$150,000 to underwrite the 1940 Democratic National Convention in Chicago.

Mr. Dunham was married in 1899 to Ethel L. Richardson. They had three children. Mrs. Dunham obtained a divorce April 19, 1922, and on April 19, 1923, he married Edith Preston Brown of San Francisco, who died March 13, 1941. He married Natalie Moorhead Grosland in Phoenix on March 28, 1942.

Surviving besides his widow, are a son and two daughters by a former marriage, Robert J. Dunham Jr. of Chicago, Mrs. Edgeron A. Throckmorton of Dundee, Ill., and Mrs. John R. Hooker of Burlingame, Calif.

THE YOUNGEST THEATRE-GOER

Regardless of where they were living, Luther Ferriss & Miriam Dunham Ferriss (1874-1940)(10)(Deacon John 1, John 2, John 3, Ebenezer 4, Ebenezer 5, Jonathan 6, Ralph 7, Francis S. 8, Samuel E. 9) always visited Chicago regularly to see their relatives there, & of course they took their daughter, Lillyn (called "Linnie") with them. Linnie was about 3 years old in 1901 when her 2 young Dunham aunts, Rosa & Edna, decided it would be nice to take Linnie along with them to the theatre. Both these aunts were engaged, & perhaps they wanted to show the young men what good mothers they would someday be, so what had been originally planned as a foursome became a 5-some. Linnie got to go to the show. It was a thrilling stage play in which, in the final scene, the hero (whose name was remembered as "Curly Ballou") stood on a stairway, while the heroine cowered on the step just above him. Curly was protecting her from the evil villains, 6 or 7 of them, whom he was fighting off with a gorgeous display of swordsmanship. One after another, they fell to the floor below, after dropping their swords when Curly gored them. This was Linnie's first experience of a stage play of course, & she was absolutely entranced as she sat with her aunts & their young men in the front row of the theatre's balcony. When the last of the villains lay inert on the stage & the hero turned to embrace the heroine, Linnie stood up & shouted, "Do it again! Do it AGAIN!!" Perhaps the dramatic moment was spoiled. Her shout may have distracted the audience. Certainly the other members of her party were humiliated. Rosa swore she'd never take Linnie to the theatre again, but Edna came to view the incident as funny. (To p. 4)



YOUNGEST THEATRE-GOER (from p. 3) While no photograph was taken on that day, Linnie's daughter (now Phyllis Kitson) managed to assemble some pictures of the people in the anecdote as they looked about that time -- including the matinee idol, not "Curly Ballou" but Kyrle Bellew (1857-1911), from a library book on earlier theatrical personalities. The photographs on page 3 are: Linnie Ferriss at age 3; Edna Dunham with her fiancé, Edgar Boone (whom she did not marry); & (inset) Rosa Dunham.



KYRLE BELLEW. ca. 1897.

CHARLES F. DUNHAM OF EATON COUNTY, MICHIGAN

We thank Pat Dunham, Fortuna, CA, for this biographical sketch of Charles F. Dunham (1858-1943) (8) (Deacon John 1, Joseph 2, Micaiah 3, Micaiah 4, David 5, Aaron 6, John M. 7), an ancestor of Pat's husband, Dallas J. Dunham. The sketch is from THE HISTORY OF EATON COUNTY (MI): "CHARLES F. DUNHAM owns a good farm in Section 6, Roxand Twp, & has here made his home from the time of his birth. He was born on this homestead Mar. 4, 1858 & is the son of John M. & Ann (VanWinkle) Dunham, the former of whom was born in Marcellus, Onondaga Co., NY, Aug. 6, 1822, & the latter of whom was born in Cayuga Co., NY July 14, 1828. Both passed the closing years of their lives on the farm now owned by the subject of this sketch, the mother having passed away Dec. 20, 1892, & the father Dec. 29, 1897. John M. Dunham (to page 5)

CHARLES F. DUNHAM (from p. 4) was a son of Aaron & Mehitabel (Wood) Dunham, who were natives of the state of Vermont & who removed from New York to Ohio when their son John was a child, becoming pioneers of the old Buckeye State, where they passed the remainder of their lives, having become parents of 17 children. John M. Dunham was reared & educated in Ohio, where his marriage was solemnized & where he became the owner of a small farm. In 1852 he removed to Indiana, where he remained until 1854, when he came to Michigan, first locating in Ionia County, whence he came to Eaton County in 1856, buying 40 acres of wild land & later adding 80 acres, of which tract he was finally compelled to dispose, his impaired health rendering it impossible for him to care for the same & make it profitable as an investment. He reclaimed his original farm from the forest, his first dwelling having been a log cabin, which he later replaced with the frame residence in which his son Charles, of this sketch, now lives. He made the trip to Michigan from Indiana with wagons & ox teams, & he continued to use oxen in the work of the farm for many years. In politics he was originally a Whig, transferring his allegiance to the Republican party at the time of its organization, supporting the Greenback party during the period of its existence, & having been a Populist at the time of his death. He was a man of well-fortified opinions & always showed the courage of his convictions, though reserved & unassuming. He read widely & with discrimination & was a man of broad information, being at all times the advocate of those measures which make for the amelioration of the oppressed in all relations of life. In religious matters his views were in harmony with the basic tenets of the Spiritualistic views, & he followed the dictates of his conscience at all times, being tolerant & kindly & ever commanding the respect & esteem of those with whom he came in contact. Of the 9 children of this sterling pioneer, the following data are incorporated: JAMES W. is a farmer of Roxand Twp; JULIA M. is the wife of William Hickock of Portland, Mich.; JOHN B. is a stone mason & resides in Sunfield Village; CAROLINE is the wife of Alvin Hyde of Sunfield Village; ALINDA became the wife of Benjamin Reader & is now deceased; SILAS F. resides in the village of Sunfield; GEORGE B. in the city of Kalamazoo; & ROZELLA J. is the wife of William Gardiner of Sunfield. CHARLES F. DUNHAM was reared on the farm which is now his home, & his educational advantages were those afforded in the district school. He has been identified with the work of this farm from his youth up & came into possession of the property before the death of his father. He is worthily upholding the prestige of the honored family name & is one of the highly esteemed citizens of his native township. In politics he votes in accord with his convictions, being an uncompromising foe of the liquor traffic, & thus giving his support to the Prohibition party. He is affiliated with the lodge of Free & Accepted Masons in the village of Mulliken, & of the Order of the Eastern Star, of which Mrs. Dunham is also a member. Feb. 22, 1882, Mr. Dunham was united in marriage to Miss Nettie Hough, who was born in Ohio Nov. 15, 18-- , being a daughter of George & Elizabeth (Kagey) Hough, both of whom were born in Ohio, & the former of whom died in the village of Sunfield May 27, 1897. His widow still maintains her home in Sunfield.Mr. & Mrs. Dunham have had 2 children, CALLIE F., born Oct. 13, 1884, & who died at the age of 7 years; & ELDRON F., who was born February 7, 1887, & who is attending schools in Sunfield."

NOTE: The above account was shortened slightly in order to fit it into our space restrictions.